



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **Sampling shows no advisories needed related to Citgo oil spill**

BATON ROUGE – The Departments of Environmental Quality and Health and Hospitals recently received results from the first part of a fish sampling effort in the Calcasieu area and have determined that no new fish advisories will be issued in relation to a 2006 Citgo oil spill. The first analyses were tested for contamination related to the more toxic fraction of oil.

More than 40 tissue samples, from species most susceptible to contamination, were sent to the US Food and Drug Administration Gulf Coast Seafood Laboratory to be analyzed. The lab found the tissues content was no different than regular background levels and were below levels of concern.

The sampling effort consisted of analyzing fish caught from three areas that were impacted by the June 19, 2006, oil spill and one area that was not. The second phase will consist of testing for additional, less toxic compounds.

“The results were not surprising,” said DEQ Scientist Chris Piehler, who developed the sampling plan along with staff from DHH. “Fish samples from other oil spills, some in other states, have rarely shown contamination related to the spill. Out of an abundance of caution and because the public should be informed about the seafood in the area, we conducted this sampling effort and had the tissue analyzed at a highly respected, USFDA lab. Based on the results, there is no need for any fish advisories related to the oil spill. However, other advisories that are already in place in the area, or any new advisories not pertaining to the oil spill, should be taken seriously.”

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